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Shyam



Ho! They're in for
grief, through the
window—a thief



Hey! He wants no gold,
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grabs ahold



Puppy wakes... "Bow Wo
Wow! Poor thief:
"ow owow"



Ram—quickly hop,
Hurry get a cop



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bail, straightaway
to the Jail



For them a special
award, a case of
Poppins the
reward



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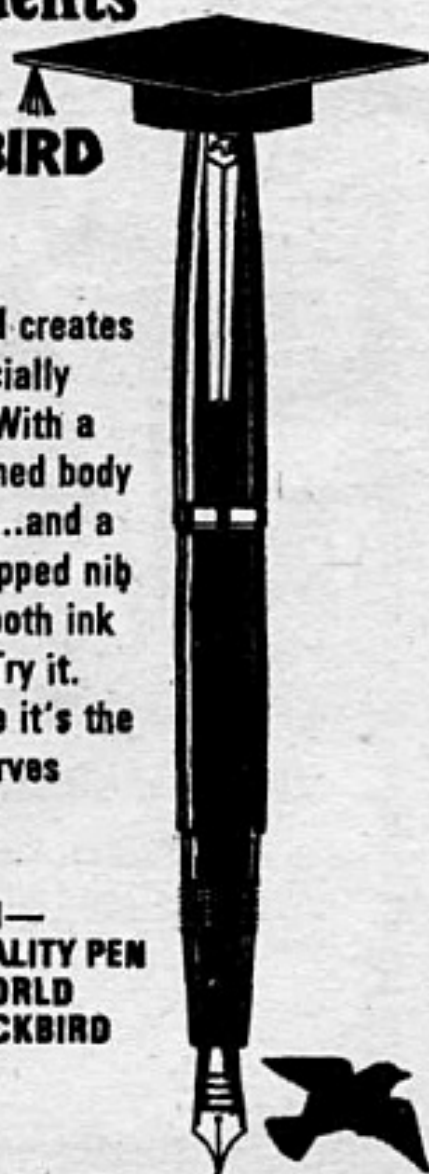
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Long ago there lived a rich man who was very close mouthed about his wealth. No one knew how much money he had. Even his wife and children did not know how much wealth he had amassed. He had a faithful servant called Maruda who drove his master around in a horse carriage.

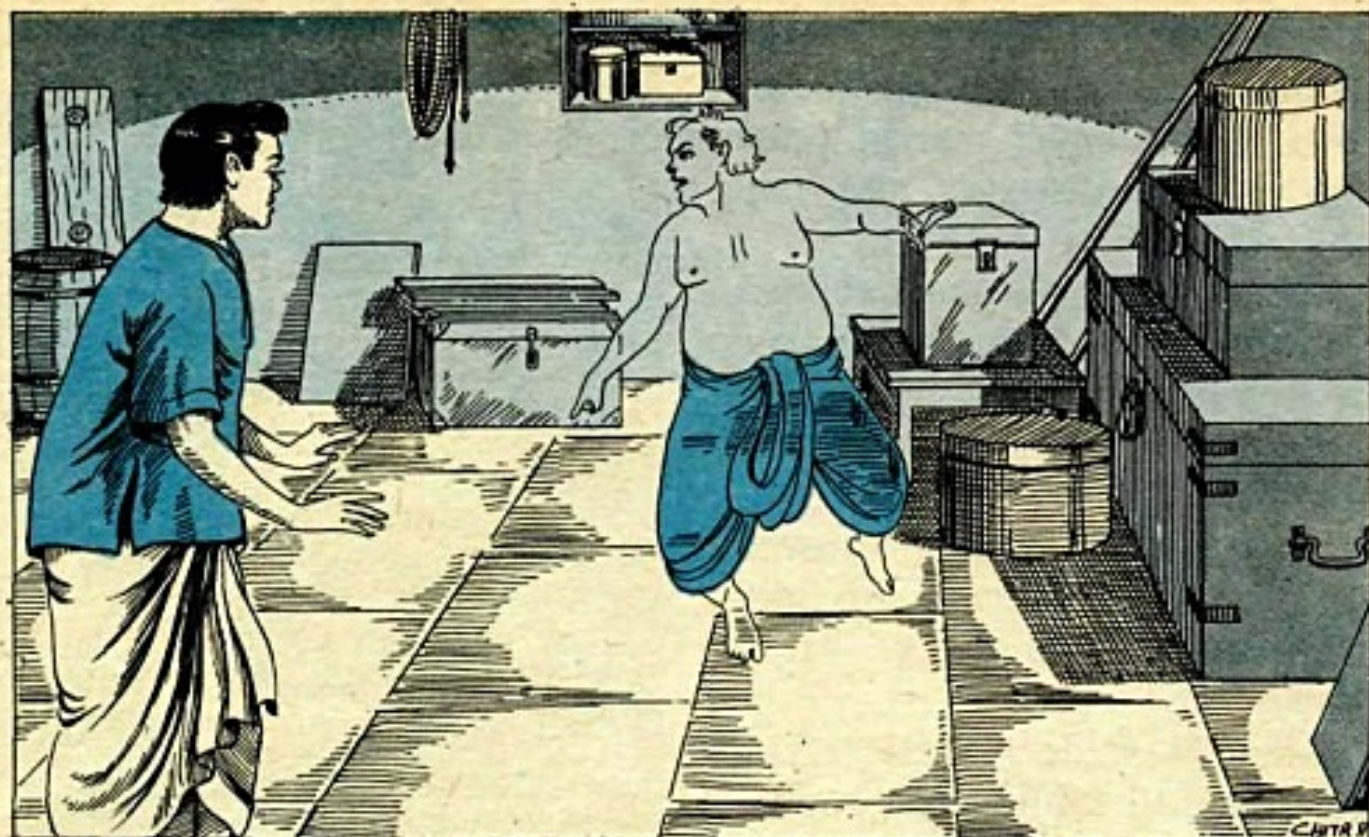
One day as the wealthy man was returning after inspecting his fields he died suddenly of a stroke. His family was thrown into confusion by this sudden tragedy; more so, because they did not know where he had kept all his money.

When the dead man's numerous relatives heard about the tragedy they came flocking to the house eager to share his wealth. But when they realised that very little money had been left behind, they melted away. Only Maruda, the faithful servant remained behind.

One day, the wealthy man's wife was in deep slumber when a severe noise woke her up. She got up to investigate and saw to her horror her late husband's ghost roaming about the house and causing a veritable racket. Early in the morning it disappeared but came back the next day, and the day after, always poking things and removing furniture, as though it was seeking and seeking something.

Maruda was told of this and that night he kept vigil in the house. He was not afraid of spirits and ghosts. He had heard that the souls of dead people inhabited their former residences. If some wealth had been left behind, the spirits came back to guard the money and prevent it from falling into the wrong hands.

Maruda guessed that his late Master's ghost was actually guarding the wealth in the house.



So he kept awake that night and waited for the ghost.

At the stroke of midnight a shadowy figure darted inside the house and busily began to move the furniture around. Maruda went near the figure noiselessly and said, "Oh! Master, why do you roam so?"

The ghost looked up and replied, "Is that you Maruda? Have you also become a ghost? Have you then come to guard your wealth as I have! All the money that I earned in my lifetime I have secreted in the four corners of this room. I am afraid, my relatives who are nothing but sharks will find this wealth and deprive my wife and children of everything".

Maruda said, "True, Master, I too had saved up about one hundred rupees in my little hut in the backyard. That's why I come here daily."

The ghost chuckled with delight to hear this. "No one will ever be able to discover my hiding places. I have distributed my money in three big jars which are buried in the three corners of this room."

Maruda pretended great surprise and said, "My! You" certainly have saved up a lot of money. But wouldn't it have been a better idea to leave all that wealth to your wife and children. Oh! How they do suffer for want of money to buy all the things they need.

Look at me! I did not tell my family about my hidden wealth. Now I can never rest in peace unless they discover and take the money."

The rich man's ghost replied, "Maruda, what you say is true. If my family knew where I've kept my money, then I can rest in peace."

Just then the cock crowed, and the ghost starting up said, "Maruda, come away. It is dawn."

Maruda said, "Master, you get ahead. I shall follow soon."

The ghost disappeared and Maruda went to the rich man's wife and related all. Then he discovered the jars and gave all the money to the dead man's wife and children.

From that day on, the ghost ceased its nocturnal visits.

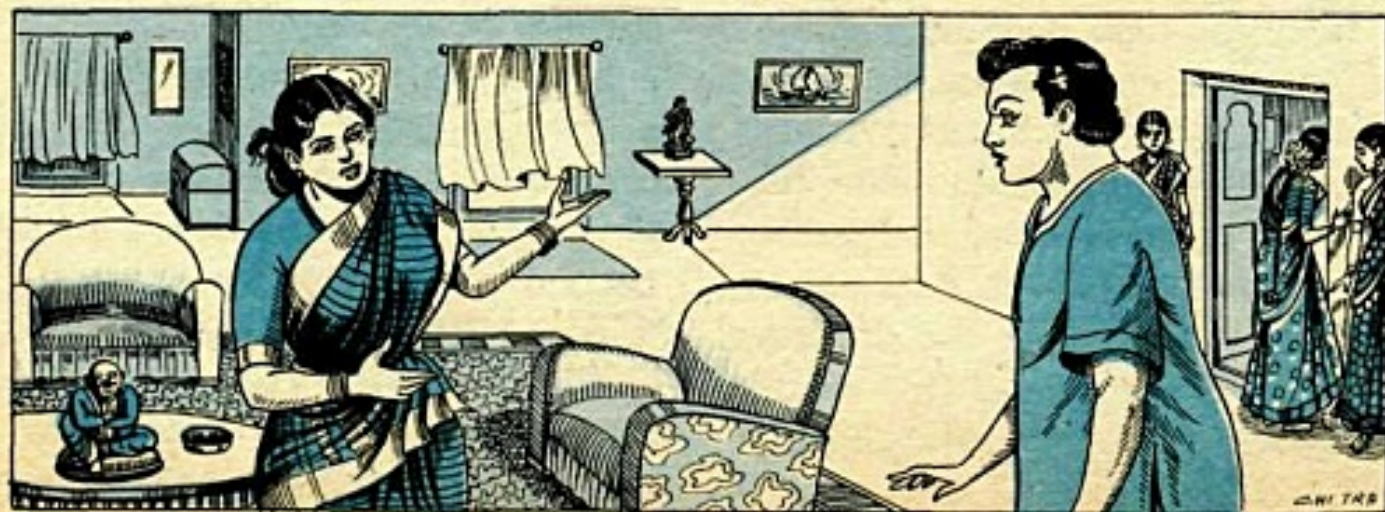
The overjoyed Mistress of the house spoke warmly to Maruda.

"Oh! Maruda, you alone re-



mained steadfast and loyal to our family. All our relatives have abandoned us. Therefore, it is my wish that you marry our youngest daughter and live here with us."

So Maruda married the youngest daughter and lived there in great happiness. It is needless to add that the rich man's ghost approved of this arrangement.





A new job for Fatty Vinayak

Fatty Vinayak was walking down the road happily fingering the twenty five paise bit in his pocket. Evening was casting long shadows on the road. Soon it became night and Fatty unwilling to travel further decided to spend the night somewhere.

Just then he saw some merchant returning from the market place with their money. They soon arrived where Vinayak was awaiting them.

One of them said, "Look here, you chaps. Let's not go any further. There are lots of bandits hereabouts. We'll stay on this tree for the night." The others agreed to this proposal. Fatty looked at them curiously and said, "Hallo, who are you and where are you going?" One merchant said,

"Fatso, we are traders. We are going to lie on top of this tree. You sleep under the tree here and if you see any robbers, yell out to us."

Fatty nodded his head to say he would do as they told him.

Then everyone climbed on the tree to stretch out on the branches. Soon they were snoring away. Fatty Vinayak snored the loudest.

Soon after midnight, a band of robbers passed that way. One of them tripped over Fatty's fat hand. He cursed loudly, and said, "I seem to have stepped on a piece of dead wood. Be careful, you feel us."

Fatty was about to turn over on his back when he heard these words. He felt insulted to hear himself described as a piece of dead wood. So he

bounded up and said, "Well, who do you think you are? Where have you seen a dead wood with twenty-five paise in its pocket?"

The surprised robber recovered from this sudden question and then said, "Oh, Fatso, so you have a twenty-five paise bit in your pocket. Come on, hand it over. Else we shall beat you to a jelly."

Fatty's body quivered like a jelly fish and he said, "Please give me back my money. Why should you take my money?"

The robber said, "Fatso, we take your money because we are robbers. See! Robbers!" With that he began to walk off with Fatty Vinayak's precious

twenty-five paise bit.

Rage welled up in Fatty's small heart at such injustice. So hoarsely he shouted, "That twentyfive paise bit is a dud. Ask my friends, the traders and they will confirm it."

The robbers realised that there were some traders hiding on the tree. So they fell upon the merchants and looted them thoroughly. But as they were leaving, they looked at Fatty Vinayak and said, "Fatso, you're just the right chap for us. Come with us. We've got a job for you."

Fatty Vinayak followed them happily, because he had got a new job, soon after the last one.



RIDDLE

Before my birth I used to have a name,
After my birth I used to alter the same,
And when I die also I used to change my name.
Thus I assume three names in three days.
Who am I?

By Dhannajay Patro, Berhampur-4.

Answer : To-day

Good and Evil

by Mr. V. Bhuvaneshwaran



Once upon a time there lived two brothers, one of whom was rich and the other poor. One day they came together and fell to talking, and the poor brother said, "Cruel as life is, still it's better to do good than evil."

"What an idea!" cried the rich brother. "There's no such thing as good in the world now, but only evil. To do good will get you nowhere."

But the poor brother stood on his ground. "No, brother," said he, "I still think it pays to do good."

"Very well then," said the rich brother. "Let's lay a wager and go and ask the first three people we meet what they think. If they say that you are right, then everything I have will be yours. But if they say that I am right, then I will take all you have for myself."

"So be it!" agreed the poor brother.

They went along the road, walked and walked, until they met a man who was

coming back from a place where he had spent the season working.

"Greetings, friend!" said they, coming up to him.

"Greetings to you!"

"There's something we want to ask you."

"Go ahead!"

"Which do you think is the better way to live: by doing good or evil?"

"Where can you find good these days, kind folk!" the man replied. "Look at me. I worked long and hard, but my earnings amount next to nothing and even so the master managed to fleace from me a large part of it. No, there's no living honestly. Better to do evil than good!"

The poor brother's spirits fell, but there was nothing to be done and the two of them went on. By and by they met a merchant.

"Greetings, honest merchant!" said they.

"Greetings to you!" the merchant replied.

"There is something we want to ask you."

"Go ahead!"

"Which do you think is the better way to live: by doing good or evil?"

"What a question, kind folk!

To do good doesn't pay! If you want to sell something, you have to lie and cheat a hundred times over. There is no selling anything otherwise."

And with that he rode on.

"There, I am right the second time!" the rich brother said.

The poor brother became sadder than ever, but there was nothing to be done and so they went on again. They walked on until they met a lord.

"Greetings, Your Lordship!" said they.

"Greetings to you!"

"There is something we want to ask you."

"Go ahead then!"

"Which do you think is the better way to live: by doing good or evil?"

"What a question, kind folk! There is no such thing as good in the world these days, and there's no living honestly. If I were to follow the ways of righteousness, why, I—" And without finishing what he had to say, the lord rode on.

"Well, now, brother," the rich brother said, "let us go home. You must turn over to me all that you have!"

The poor brother went home, and he was deeply grieved. And the rich brother took away all



his humble belongings and only left him his hut.

"You can stay here for the time being," said he. "I don't need it now. But you will have to look for another place to live in soon."

The poor brother sat in the hut with his family, and there was not a piece of bread for them to eat and nowhere to earn any money, for it was a bad year for crops. The poor brother tried to bear it, and so he did for a time, but his children began crying from hunger, and he took a sack and went to the rich brother to ask for flour.

"Give me a measure of flour or grain, or anything you can spare," said he. "There is nothing to eat in the house. The children have grown swollen with hunger!"

Said the rich brother, "You can have a measure of flour if you let me put out your eye."

The poor brother thought it over, and he knew there was no way out but to agree.

"So be it," said he. "Put it out, and may God be with you. Only give me some flour, for God's sake!"

So the rich brother put out the poor brother's eye and gave him a measure of mouldy flour. The poor brother brought it home and his wife took one look at him and gasped.

"What has happened to you, where is your eye?"

"My brother put it out," said he.

And he told her all about it. They cried and wept for a time, but they had to eat the flour, for it was all the food they had.

A week passed or perhaps a little over a week and the flour was all gone. So the poor man took his sack and went to his brother again.

"Do please give me some

flour, my dear brother," said he. "The flour you gave me last time is all over"

"I'll give you a measure if you let me put out your second eye," the rich brother replied.

"How can I live without both eyes, brother! Already you have put out one. Be kind and give me the flour without blinding me."

"Oh, no. I won't, unless you let me put out your other eye."

The poor man had no choice.

"Go ahead and put it out then and may God be with you," said he.

So the rich brother took a knife, put out his poor brother's second eye and filled his sack with flour. And the blind man took it and went home.

He walked with greatest difficulty, stumbling and groping his way from one wattle fence to another, and finally reached his house with the flour. His wife looked at him and her blood froze in horror. "How will you live without your eyes, you poor, unhappy man!" cried she. "We might have got some flour elsewhere, and now..."

And she wept on as she could not utter any word.

Said the blind man, "Do

not cry, my dear. I am not the only blind man in this world. There are many like me, and they manage to live without the eyes."

But a measure of flour is not much for a family, and soon it was spent.



"I won't go to my brother any more," the blind man said. "Take me to the large banyan tree on the road beyond our village and leave me there for the day. And in the evening you can come and take me home. Many people pass that way on foot and horse. Surely someone will give me a morsel of food."

And his wife led him to the tree and seated him there.

The blind man sat there, and some gave him a paisa or two, but soon it was getting on towards evening and yet his wife did not come. The blind man was tired and he decided to go home by himself but he turned off in the wrong direction and instead of getting to his house walked on and on without knowing where he was going. Suddenly he heard the trees rustling all around him and he knew that he was in a forest and would have to spend the night there. But fearing the wild beasts he climbed a tree, a feat he managed with difficulty and there he sat motionless.

As midnight struck a few evil spirits came flying and halted on the tree. Their chief began to discuss their day's work.

"I made a brother blind his own brother for two measures of flour," said one.

"You did well, but not as well as could be," the chief remarked.

"Why not?"

"Because the blind brother has only to rub his eyes with the dew that is under this tree and he will see again."

"But no one knows or has heard of that. So, blind he will remain."

Said the chief turning to another of them, "Now you tell me what you did."

"I dried up all the water in a village leaving not even a drop. Now they have to carry water from forty miles away and many may die on the way."

"You did well, but not so well as could be."

"Why not?"

"If the large rock near that village is moved enough water will gush out to satisfy everybody."

"But no one knows or has heard of that, so the water will remain where it is."

"And what of you, what did you do?" the chief of the evil spirits asked yet another of them.

"I blinded the only daughter of the king of a nearby country

and the doctors and physicians can do nothing."

"You did well but not so well as could be."

"Why not?"

"One has only to rub her eyes with the dew that is under this tree and she will see again."

"But no one knows of that and so she shall remain blind."

And the blind man who was on the tree heard everything that was said and when the evil spirits flew away he climbed down, rubbed his eyes with the dew and lo! he could see again.

"Now I will go and help the others," he thought.

And gathering some dew into a small cup he had with him, he set off on his way.

He came to the village where there was no water, and he saw an old woman carrying two pails on a yoke.

"Give me a little water, to drink grandma," said he, bowing to her.

"Ah, my son," the old woman said, "I am carrying this water from forty miles away and I have already spilled a good half on the way. Mine is a big family and I can't afford to waste any more!"

"I shall come along with you

and find enough water for you all," he told her.

The old woman was happy to hear of his promise and gave him a cup of water. She rushed to the village and told the people of him. The villagers were doubtful but begged the visitor thus, "Save us from the cruel death that awaits us, kind stranger!"

"I'll do," said he, "but follow me."

He went around the places and at last located the rock. the evil spirits spoke about. "Lift it, Sirs," he commanded the villagers. Then the people set in a body lifted the rock and moved it. And lo! the



water gushed out. It ran a wide stream and filled all the springs, ponds and rivers very full and deep.

The people were overjoyed. They thanked the man and gave him lots of money and gifts.

The man got on a horse and rode off for the kingdom the evil spirits had spoken about.

He was long on the saddle and rode on and on till he reached the king's palace. Said he to the servants, "I have heard that your King's daughter is very ill. Perhaps I can cure her."

"Not you!" said they. "The best physicians could do nothing

to help her. You needn't even try."

"Still, you had better tell of me to the King."

They did not venture to do it, but so adamant was he that they yielded at last and told the king. He was at once called to the palace.

"Can you really cure my daughter?" the king enquired.

"I can," the man replied.

"If that's so, you shall have whatever you ask."

They took the man to the chamber of the princess and he rubbed her eyes with the dew he had brought and lo! she could see again.



The king's joy was such that no words could describe it and he gave the man so many gifts that a contingent of carts had to carry them away.

All the while the wife was all for grief. She was doubting if he was dead. And lo! there he came one night knocking at the door, and calling out, "Open the door, dear!"

She recognised his voice and was overjoyed. She ran out and opened the door for him and tried to lead him into the hut for she thought that he was still blind.

"Bring a lighted splinter!" said he.

She did and lifted it to his face. She found him in full sight. Her joy was in no bounds.

"God be thanked!" she exclaimed. "How did it all happen, dear?"

"Wait a bit my dear, let us first carry in what I brought along."

And so now they had a full house and a life in style. His

rich brother heard all about it and came enquiring.

"How did it happen, brother, that you got your sight and riches too?" asked he.

And the other made no secret of it.

And now the rich brother was eager to become richer still. He stole into the forest and climbed the self-same tree and sat there very quietly.

At the stroke of midnight, the evil spirits came flying with the leader along.

Said the evil spirits, "What can it mean! No one knew nor heard anything. Yet the blind brother had regained his sight and the water had been let out from under the rock and the princess had been cured. Perhaps someone eavesdrops on us? Let us go and search!"

They rushed to look, and climbed the tree, and lo! there sat the rich man... And they pounced on him and tore him to bits.





A CLEVER NOTION

Long, long ago, there lived a blacksmith, who was renowned for his craft all the country round.

One day the King's royal guards came to his smithy and ordered him to accompany them to the royal court as the King had expressed a desire to meet him.

The blacksmith went along and was ushered before the King.

"I am told that you are a very clever craftsman. Take these bits of iron and fashion a man out of them. This iron man must talk and behave like a human. I give you a month's time to accomplish this. If you fail to carry out our command, you will forfeit your life."

The poor blacksmith went

home with the bits of iron. He was plunged into the deepest gloom because he did not know how to make an iron man. Even if he succeeded in making an iron figure, how could he make it talk and walk like ordinary human beings?

Soon the news spread all over the country and everyone felt pity for the hapless blacksmith.

As for the blacksmith he felt he was going mad and desired nothing better than to escape from the country. So he set out from his home and wandered in the nearby forest. There he met a mad man who had adorned himself with flowers and twigs. The mad man laughed loud when he saw the blacksmith.

"Oh! So you are that famous

blacksmith. Come, I've been wanting to meet you for a long time. Come let us talk."

The blacksmith was bewildered and did not reply. Moreover, he was so hungry that he could hardly speak. He followed the mad man to a tree and sat under its comforting shade. He ate the fruits given to him by the mad fellow. Then he related the strange command of the King.

The mad one laughed and said, "Oh! That's no problem. To make an iron man like that you need only the top knot of men's hair and jars of tears."

The blacksmith heard this attentively and thought that here was a way to escape from his dangerous situation. Quickly he returned home and went to the royal court.

"Sire," he said, "I can make the iron man you desire. But for that I need a thousand

cartloads of men's hair and a thousand jars full of human tears to stoke the fire. Give me these and I'll make your iron man for you."

The King ordered his Minister to fetch whatever the blacksmith needed, but clearly this was an impossible task. So the Minister came to the King and declared that it was well nigh impossible to procure so much human hair, much less get a thousand jars of human tears.

Then the King said to the blacksmith, "Alright, I relieve you of your duties. You needn't make the iron man. After all, everyone knows how skillful you are."

Thus the blacksmith was saved from his dilemma, all because the random words of a mad man gave him the notion to counter the King's command and save his own life.





Robin Hood was very pleased when King Richard Lion Heart came to Sherwood Forest and joined the outlaws in their war against the Norman baron, Robert the Wolf. Now was the time to march on Nottingham.

Robin made his plans cleverly and cautiously. He ordered Will Scarlet to take a swift horse and ride on ahead and keep a good look-out for the enemy. There was no telling what Robert the Wolf was doing, and Will Scarlet had to find out.



"Trust me, Robin," said Will as he rode away through the forest. "I will find out what the Normans are doing." The Robin turned to King Richard. "Sire," he said, "we are ready to march on Nottingham and fight the Normans."



Meanwhile, Will Scarlet rode quickly out of Sherwood Forest and across the fields towards Nottingham. Suddenly, he saw movement down in a nearby valley. Keeping under cover, Will waited and then coming towards him was Robert the Wolf with his army, on the road to his castle at Normanton.



Of course, Will Scarlet was not to know that Robert the Wolf had decided to leave Nottingham and gather his remaining force at Normanton in order to fight King Richard. Will Scarlet thought that Robert the Wolf was again venturing into Sherwood to capture Robin Hood.

Will Scarlet turned his horse and rode back the way he had come as fast as he could with the important news. The outlaws were already on the march through the forest when they heard and saw Will Scarlet coming towards them at a terrific gallop. "This looks like trouble," observed the King. Everybody else thought the same.



It was exciting news that Will Scarlet brought. "Robert the Wolf and his army are on the march just a few miles from here." "This is good news," said Robin. "Now we can fight the Normans in open country." Then turning to King Richard, Robin asked. "Shall we ambush them?"





"Are you sure you can do it?" asked the King in reply. "If we are quick," said Robin. "We will hurry down to the valley and catch them there." "Very well," agreed the King. "You know the way. I leave it all to you."

Robin called Little John, Much the Miller and also Alan a Dale, and explained what was to be done. Then the eager outlaws were summoned and began the swift dash to get to the valley before the Norman army could reach the spot.



Robin knew all the short cuts through the forest so they reached the valley ahead of the Norman rebels. They took up their positions on either side of the winding track along which Robert the Wolf and his Normans had to come.



They did not have to wait very long. Very soon came the sharp command. "Take cover, lads, here they come! Nobody must move until I give the word." Not so much as a leaf stirred along the valley trail as the Normans marched on their way, entirely unaware they were going straight into an ambush.



Suddenly King Richard whispered to Robin. "I want to stop any fighting if I can. Give me time to speak to them before you attack." Meanwhile, Robert the Wolf was getting nervous and he wondered where those accursed outlaws could be. "Faster! Faster!" he shouted to his men.



Then to the surprise of the Normans, a man darted out from between the trees and stood before them with uplifted hands. "Stop," he shouted. "It is I—your king. You are surrounded by Robin Hood's men. Surrender, and I wil. I pardon you all."

But Robert the Wolf's reply was to draw his great sword. "You cannot frighten me," he cried. "I do not own you as my king. You only side with the Saxons. I defy you, Richard Lion Heart. I will fight you and the outlaws."





Who Stole the Moon Necklace?

Once upon a time a certain Princess went to the river to bathe, and left her ornaments on the bank in the care of one of her maids. This maid took a short nap on the sly, and in that space of time the mischief took place. One of the ornaments, a moon necklace vanished without a trace.

When the maid discovered the loss she realized that her life would be forfeit once the Princess found out. Suddenly she began to yell, "There, there he goes, the thief who has stolen the moon necklace.

Fortunately for her, someone was indeed running in that direction, and the palace guards took up the chase. But whoever it was, he eluded the

guards and disappeared from sight.

The king became very angry and would have executed the guards for failing in their duty if one of them had not promised to capture the culprit and recover the moon necklace.

Next day this guard espied a man who resembled the unaway of the previous day. Quickly arresting him, he brought the man before the King and said, "Your Majesty, Here is the man who stole the moon necklace."

The King thundered "And where is my daughter's moon necklace?"

The bewildered citizen who was indeed innocent did not know what to say. But if he did not speak, they would cut



off his head. So he blurted out, "Your Majesty, I have given the necklace to Narayan, the diamond merchant."

The soldiers soon arrested Narayan, the diamond merchant and brought him before the king.

The king asked sternly, "Where is the moon necklace?"

Poor Narayan did not know what to say. Just then the High Priest arrived and quick as thought, Narayan said, "Why, I gave it to him."

The king turned to the High Priest and asked, "Where is the moon necklace?"

Though the High Priest turned pale with fear he was a resourceful man. So he said, "Oh! the necklace, why I took it from the merchant said prayers over it, and gave it to the Chief Minister."

The king looked around and saw the Minister slinking away from the Court. He yelled at him.

"Ho, there my Minister.

where is the moon necklace? This man stole it, and gave it to the diamond merchant, who in turn gave it to the High Priest. The High Priest says he gave it to you. So where is the necklace?"

Without batting an eyelid, the Minister replied, "True, I got it from the High Priest. I was bringing it to you, when a monkey snatched the Jewel from my hands." The King exclaimed, "Is that so? Well, my guards will catch and destroy every monkey until the necklace is found."

So the guards fanned out in all directions and began to pelt the monkeys with stones. The monkeys retaliated by throwing fruits and whatever else they

could lay their hands on. One monkey scored a direct hit on a Palace Guard's nose with a shining missile which proved to be the missing moon necklace. This monkey had actually picked up the necklace when the Princess was bathing in the river.

So the King got back his necklace and never for a moment suspected that the supposed thief, the diamond merchant, the High Priest and the Minister had all lied valiantly to escape the wrath of the king. But ultimately it was the quick thinking of the Minister which laid the blame on the monkey that finally rescued all the others from a very serious offence.





Once there lived a lad called Hans. Hans lived with his widowed mother in a small cottage, but although the lad was willing and hard-working, it could not be said that they lived very well, for however hard he worked, he never earned enough money to buy more than the food and clothing they needed.

One day, when Hans had been looking for work and found none, he returned home very unhappy. "I can find no work at all," he said. "I shall have to go out into the world and seek my fortune."



THE DONKEY WHICH SNEEZED GOLD

His mother was very sad, but she agreed that it was the only thing to do, so next morning Hans took some bread and cheese and set off. He travelled a long way and he was so tired that he sat down on a stone to eat his bread and cheese. He had not been there very long, when a fat, little man came past.

"What are you doing there and why do you look so glum, my friend?" asked the little man. Hans told him that he was looking for work.

The little man chuckled. "If it's work you're seeking, you can work for me," he said

He led Hans to a lovely house, surrounded by trees. "I need someone to gather my harvest in," he said. "You can work in my fields until all the harvest has been reaped."

Next morning Hans set to work bright and early. He worked happily from dawn to dusk. It was the same on each succeeding day until the little man's harvest had all been gathered in and the barns were full.

Then Hans went to his master to ask for his reward. "You are a fine fellow, you have worked well," said the little man. "I cannot pay you in



gold or silver, but I can give you something which is more valuable than money. Take this old table. If you say to it, 'Table, lay yourself', it will be covered at once with good things to eat."

The lad was very pleased and he took the table under his arm and set out for home. He had not gone very far, when he began to feel hungry, so he set the table down on the ground and said, "Table, lay yourself."

At once, the table was covered with all kinds of delicious food and the lad had a fine meal.

Evening drew on and he began to feel very tired. In front

of him, he saw an inn, so he stopped and asked for shelter. "I have plenty of room," said the innkeeper.

"Thank you," said Hans. "And please treat my table carefully."

The innkeeper looked at the battered old table in surprise and Hans roared with laughter. "It is no ordinary table," he said and he turned to the table and said, "Table, lay yourself." Immediately the table was covered with the most wonderful food the innkeeper had ever seen.

When Hans had gone to bed, the crafty innkeeper went and

fetches an old table which looked just like the one Hans had shown him and changed the tables over. Next morning, Hans picked up the innkeeper's table and started on his way home. He noticed no difference.

When he reached home, he called to his mother, "Come and see the wonderful table I have brought. It will provide all we need for the rest of our lives." Then he said, "Table, lay yourself." Nothing happened. No matter how many times Hans said the magic words, no food appeared. His mother was quite certain he had been tricked.

For a time, Hans stayed at home with his mother, but the time came again when he could get no work and there was little money left, so Hans set out once more to look for work. Again, he met the fat, little man and again Hans worked happily in his fields until there was nothing more to do and then he went to his master for his wages.

"I cannot give you money," said the little man, "but take this donkey. I know it is not the most handsome donkey you could find, but it is very valu-

able. You have only to say, 'Donkey, sneeze', and the donkey will sneeze gold."

Hans thanked the little man and led the donkey away.

Soon he was hungry, but he had no money to buy food. Then he remembered what the little man had said and turning to the donkey, he said, "Donkey, sneeze." At once, the donkey sneezed and a shower of gold coins fell from its mouth. With the gold, Hans was able to buy food.

When he reached the inn, he went in as he had done before asked the innkeeper for a bed for the night. "I can pay you well," he said. Rubbing his hands with glee, the greedy innkeeper replied that he could have the best bedroom. "And I want a good, warm stable for my donkey," said Hans.



"Look after it carefully, for it is no ordinary donkey."

The innkeeper looked so surprised at this that Hans said, "You only have to say, 'Donkey, sneeze', and a shower of gold coins falls from its mouth."

The greedy innkeeper led the donkey into his stable. When Hans had gone to bed, he lost no time in changing Hans's donkey for his own. Hans took the donkey away next morning never noticing the difference.

When he reached home, he called to his mother to come and see what a wonderful donkey he had. Then he said, "Donkey, sneeze," but no matter how many times he said it, nothing happened. No gold appeared. Hans's mother was more certain than ever that he had been tricked and had worked for nothing.

For a third time, Hans had to go out and seek work. Everything happened as it had before and Hans again worked in the little man's fields. This time, when Hans went to collect his wages, he said to the little man, "It is a strange thing, but neither the table nor the donkey would do the things you told me when I reached home. The

table gave no food and the donkey no gold."

The little man questioned him closely, then he went and fetched a sack. "Take this," he said. "In the sack is a stick and if you say, 'Stick, out of the bag', it will jump out and give anyone you wish a sound beating. Take it to the inn where you stayed with the table and the donkey."

Hans set off and when he reached the inn, the innkeeper welcomed him with open arms. He could hardly wait to find out what was in the sack which Hans stood in the corner, but all Hans would say was, "Do not touch that, for it is no ordinary sack and whatever you do, do not say, 'Stick, out of the bag'."

The innkeeper waited until he thought Hans was fast asleep in bed and then he crept over to the sack and said, "Stick, out of the bag." At once, the stick jumped out of the bag and began to beat him so soundly that he shouted for mercy.

"Stop, stop," yelled the terrified innkeeper, but the stick only beat him harder. Hans jumped out of bed.

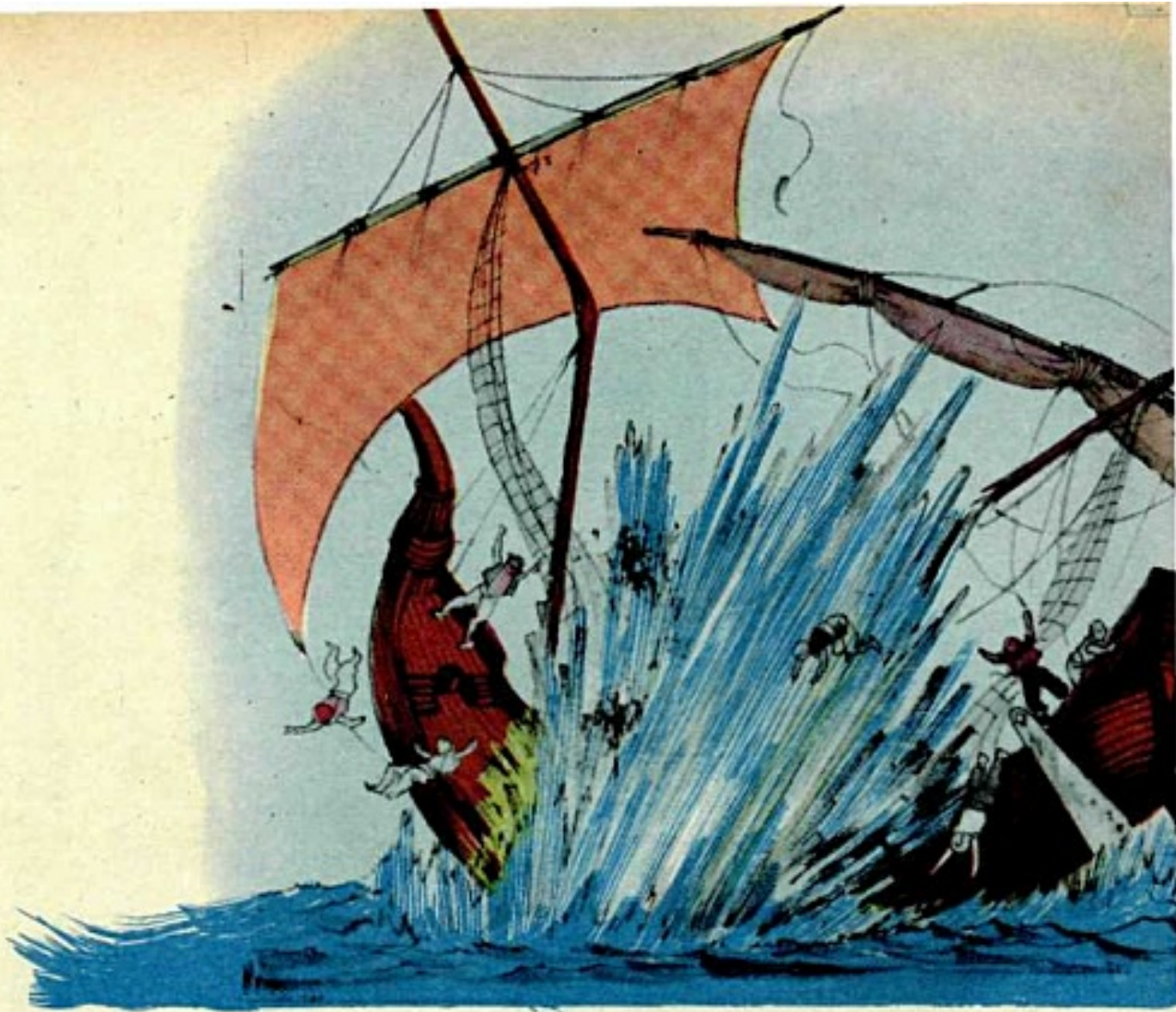
"I will not stop it, until you give me the table and the don-



key you stole from me," he said.

The innkeeper promised to return them at once, so Hans said, "Stick, into the bag." At once, the stick jumped back in the bag and the terrified innkeeper rushed to fetch the table and the donkey.

This time, when Hans reached home, he had only to say, "Table, lay yourself," and the table was covered with good food. As soon as he said, "Donkey, sneeze," the donkey sneezed gold. His old mother was delighted and, of course, they lived happily, in comfort, for the rest of their lives.



Sinbad the merchant had been on a trading voyage and had many adventures. For a while after his return he remained at home, living a life of pleasure and luxury. He found that after a time he remembered only the excitement and pleasure of his travels and forgot the sufferings he had endured. It was not long before he was seized with an urge to travel again, to sail new seas and explore new lands.

One day, as Sinbad was walking by the harbour, he saw a fine ship which had just been built. He bought it at once, hired an experienced captain and crew and found several other merchants who were willing to travel on a trading expedition with him and pay for their passages. They put their goods on board and sailed away.

They visited many countries and islands, trading with each one. After a time, they sighted

SINBAD AND THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA



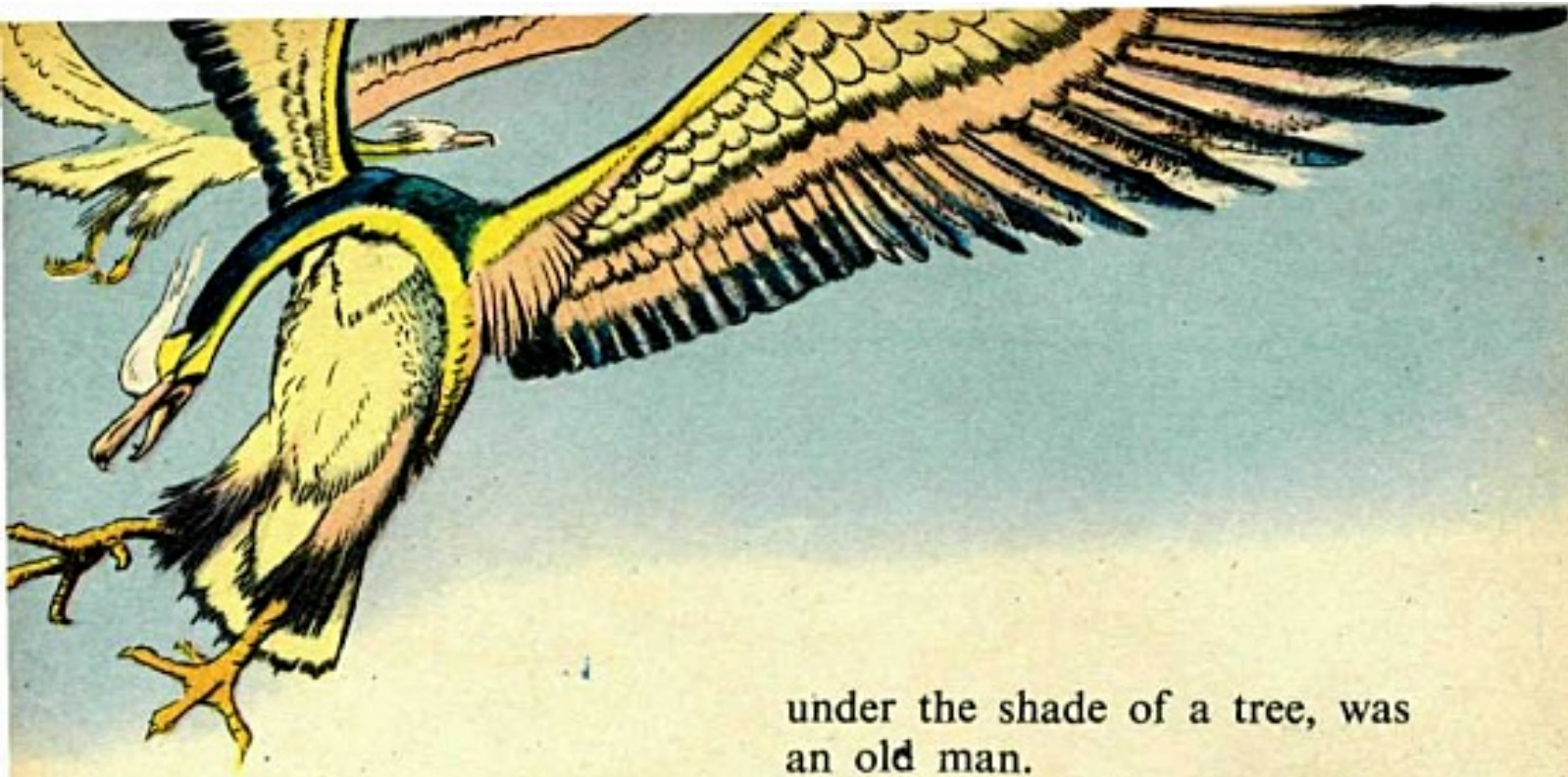
an island and saw a big white dome, half-buried in the sand. Sinbad knew at once that this was the egg of a huge bird called a roc and the passengers, who had heard of the roc, begged to be allowed to land and look at it.

However, the merchants were not content with looking. They threw stones and rocks at the egg, until they broke it and for further sport, they dragged the baby bird out of the shell and made a feast of it.

When they returned and told Sinbad what they had done, he was horrified. "We are all lost," he cried, "for now the rocs will pursue us and destroy our ship."

Just then, the sky darkened and looking up, they saw the two huge birds flying back. When the rocs found their egg broken, they flew away again with shrill cries of alarm.

Sinbad and the merchants put to sea at once, but before they had sailed very far, the



two rocs flew back, each one carrying an enormous boulder. These they dropped on the ship, wrecking it completely. Everyone was flung into the sea, but Sinbad managed to escape drowning by clinging to a piece of wreckage.

He drifted to the shore of an island. It was a beautiful island. The trees were loaded with delicious fruit, streams of clear water flowed through banks covered with bright flowers and birds sang sweetly. Sinbad made a good meal of the fruit and then lay down to sleep on the soft grass.

Next morning, he set out to explore the island. He came to a little river and to his amazement, sitting on the bank,

under the shade of a tree, was an old man.

Sinbad took him for a shipwrecked mariner, like himself and asked him what misfortune had cast him up on the island, but the old man made no answer. He only signed to Sinbad with his head to carry him across to the other side of the river.

Sinbad picked the old man up, put him on his shoulders and carried him across, but at the other side, when Sinbad stooped to put him down, the old man only crossed his legs tighter around Sinbad's neck, so that Sinbad was half-suffocated and fainted.

When he came to, the old man kicked him violently and Sinbad was forced to carry him to the fruit trees. There the old man picked fruit to eat. He

made Sinbad carry him all over the island, wherever he wished, kicking him when he stopped, so that Sinbad was no better than a slave.

Even at night, when Sinbad lay down to sleep, the old man stayed on his back, never loosening his hold.

For many weeks Sinbad carried the old man around and one day he came to a place where a number of gourds were lying on the ground. These were the large seed-pods of a plant, which, when empty and dried by the sun, were very useful for storing liquid.

Sinbad picked up one of the dried gourds, cleaned it out and squeezed the juice from some grapes into it. Then he sealed up the hole he had made in the gourd and left it in the sun. Several days later, he returned to the spot and found that the sun had turned the grape juice into delicious wine. Drinking it made Sinbad feel so gay that he danced merrily along under the trees, with the old man on his back.

As soon as the old man saw this, he demanded to be given the wine too. Sinbad gave it to him and he drank all there was in the gourd. He became so



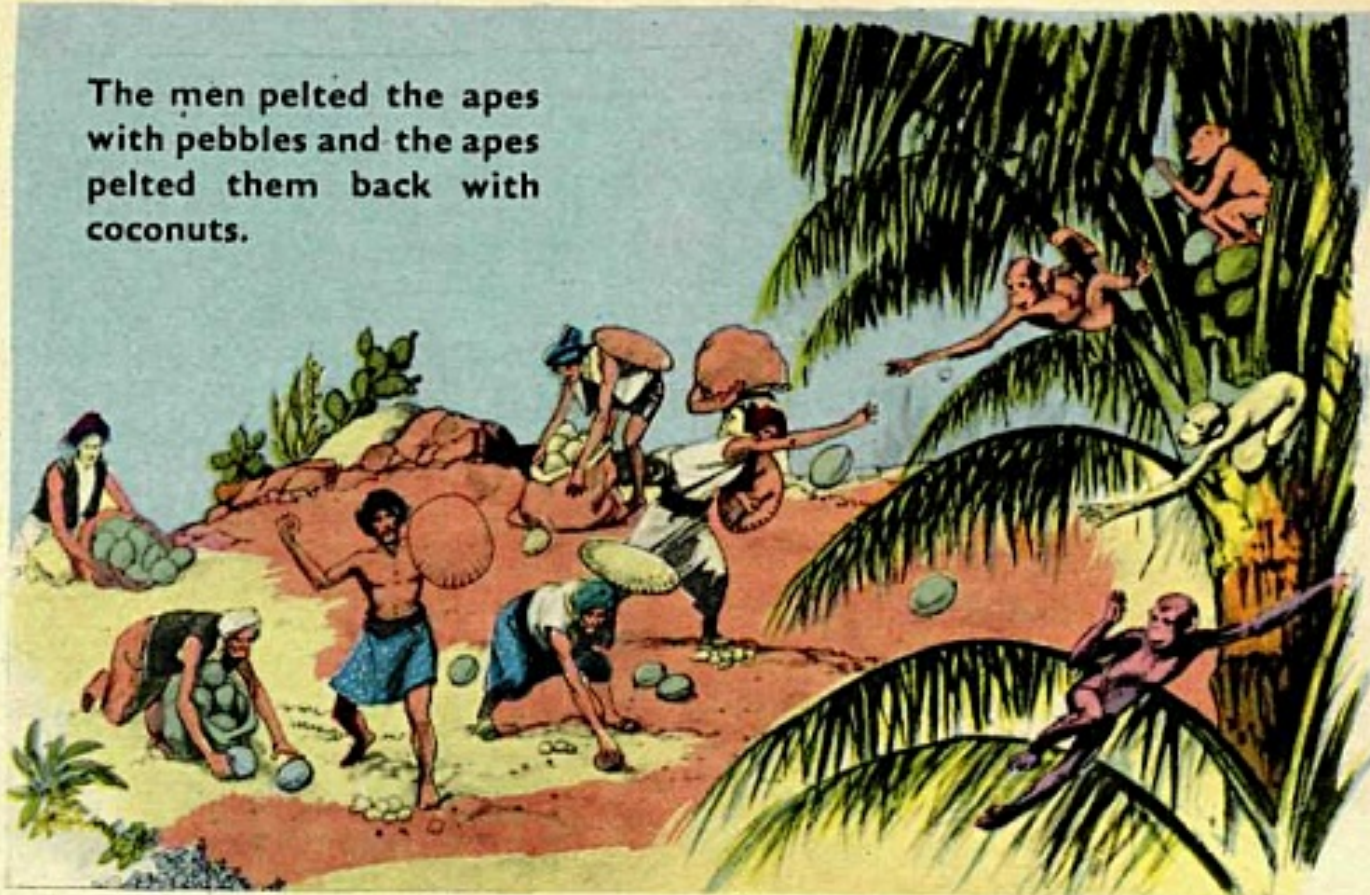
The old man forced Sinbad to carry him all over the land, kicking him when he stopped.

drunk that he began to sway about and Sinbad was able to hurl him to the ground quite easily.

Quickly Sinbad killed the terrible old man, so that no other traveller would be caught by him. Then he roamed around the island, rejoicing in his freedom.

One day, as he sat on the sea-shore, Sinbad saw a sail

The men pelted the apes with pebbles and the apes pelted them back with coconuts.



in the distance. The ship approached the island and the people on board went ashore to get fresh water. Sinbad rushed up to them and quickly told them his story. They told him that he had been in the clutches of the Old Man of the Sea and he was the first person to escape alive. Then they took him back to the ship with them and sailed on until they came to the City of the Apes, perched on a high cliff above a large harbour.

Sinbad went ashore with one of the merchants. In the town, they saw a crowd of men, going out of the city gates carrying

sacks of pebbles. The merchant gave Sinbad a sack of pebbles and told some of the men to take him with them, so that he might earn some money.

After a long walk, they reached a great valley, covered with coconut trees. The trunks were so tall that no man dared to climb them, but they obtained the coconuts by pelting the apes, who lived in the tops of the trees, with pebbles.

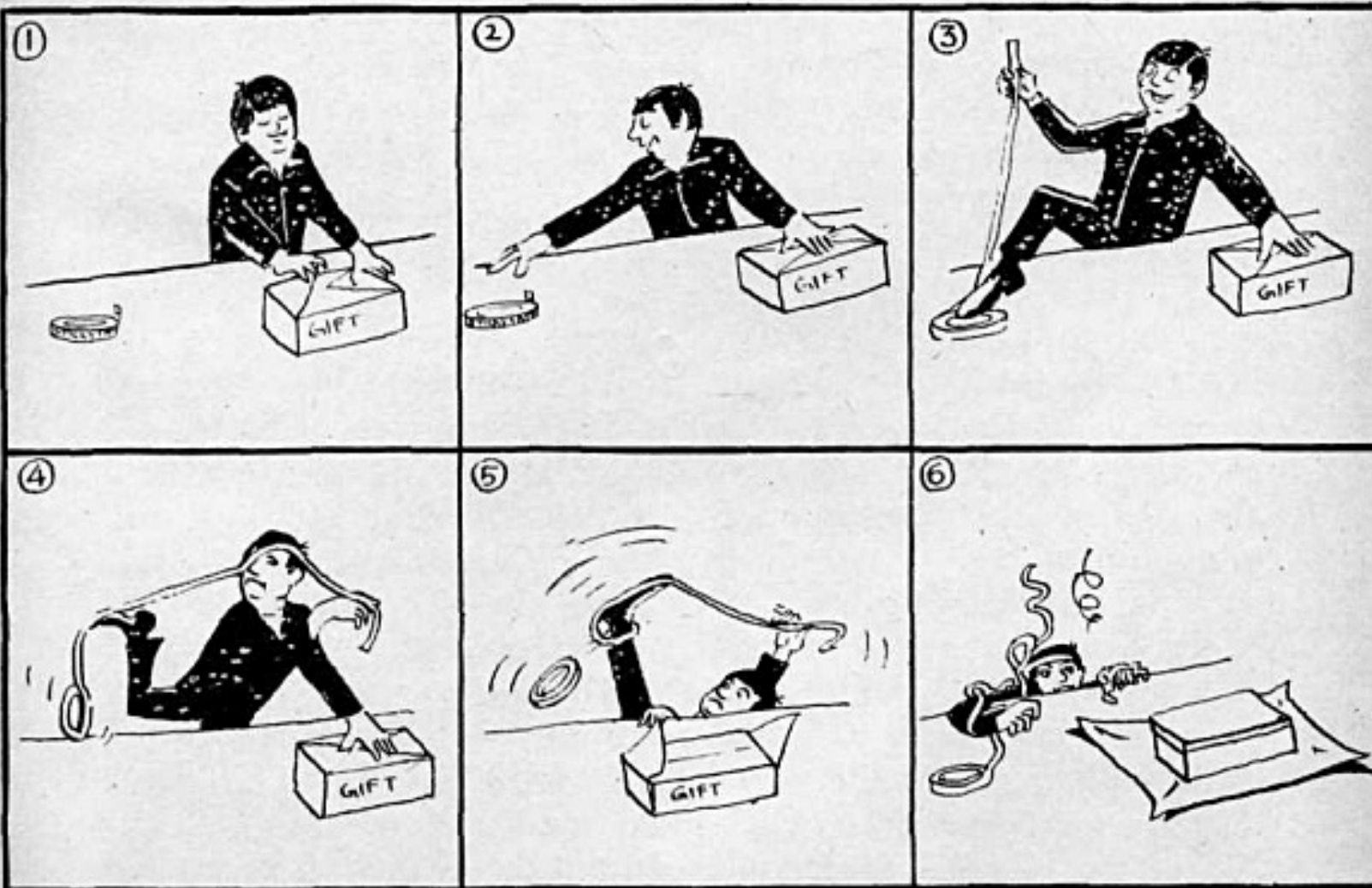
The angry apes then pelted the men with coconuts and the men filled their sacks with the coconuts and took them back to sell in the city.

Every day, Sinbad went out to the valley with the coconut traders until he had saved enough money to pay his passage back home. Then he said goodbye to his friends and set sail on a ship which was homeward bound.

He took with him a cargo of coconuts and other goods which he bought in the City of Apes and these he traded at all the ports on the way. When they reached the Sea of Pearls, Sinbad had enough money to employ divers, who brought up for

him from the sea-bed a large number of priceless pearls.

He reached Baghdad loaded with treasure and quickly made his way to his house. When the news spread that he had returned, all his friends and relatives hurried to greet him and hear about his adventures. He gave them all rich presents and he also gave a large sum of money to the poor widows and orphans of the town. Then he began again the gay life he had lived before.

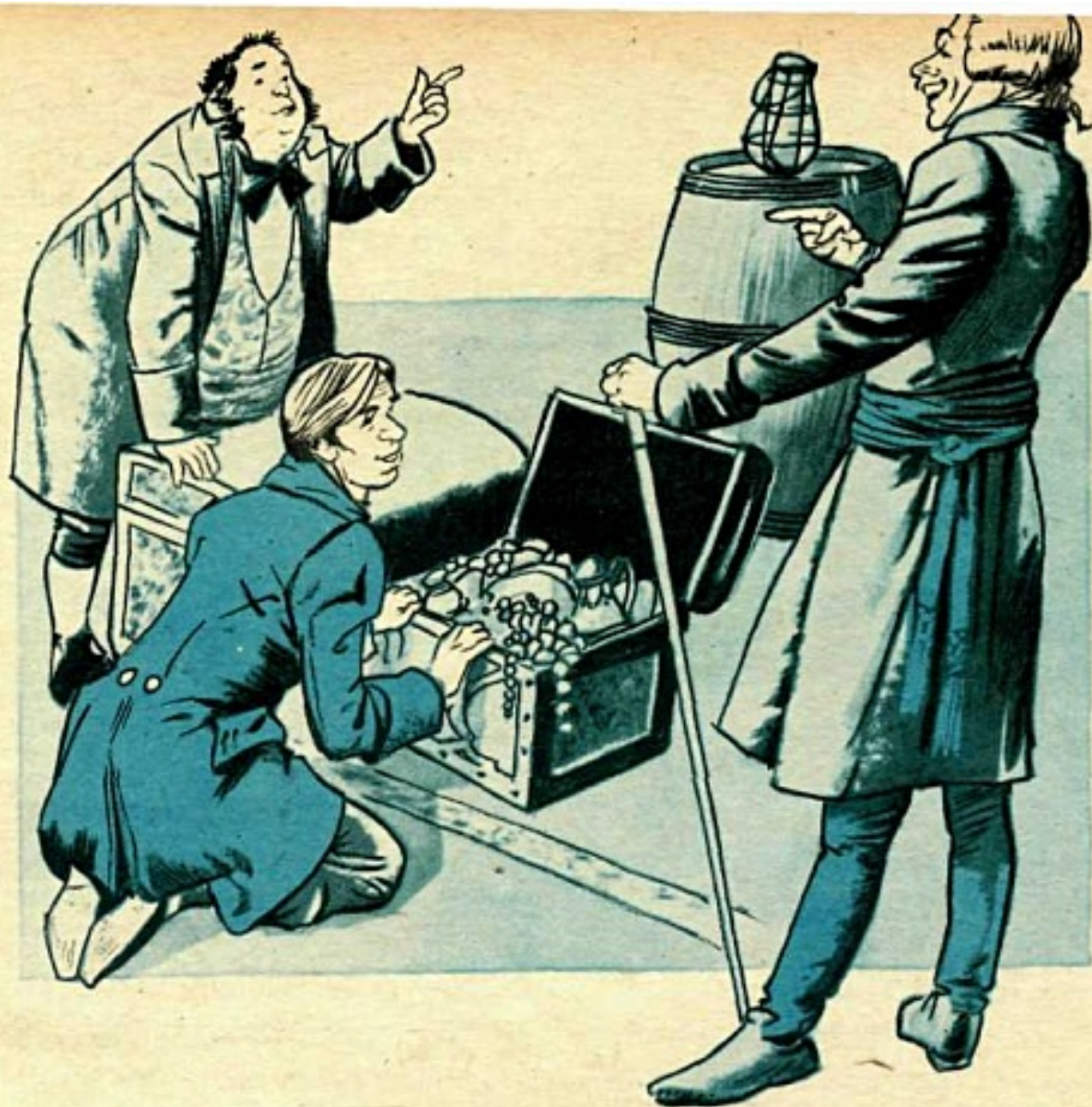




SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Here you will find two pictures of a building which look almost alike but differ only in a few respects. Point out the ten such differences and enjoy for yourself.





THE LOST TREASURE

At one time, many years ago, Switzerland was at war with France. The French armies were invading the country and several Swiss towns had already fallen. It seemed likely that the invaders would reach even farther and the people of the little town of Meiringen were very worried. They feared that if the French soldiers reached their

town, they would at once search for all the gold and silver and valuables which they possessed and carry them away and the townsfolk themselves would be left with nothing.

Finally the people decided to hide their treasure. "That is the only way we will be able to keep it from the soldiers," they said, so they collected all the



They tipped the treasure chests over the side and watched them sink.

money, the gold, the silver and the jewellery, locked it all up in big, heavy chests and took them along to the Town Hall.

"We have brought all our treasure," they said to the Mayor. "We want to hide it somewhere where the French soldiers will not think of looking, if they come to this town. Where do you suggest?"

The Mayor scratched his head and thought hard, for a long time. Then he cried suddenly, "I have it, the Lake is the very place. They will never think of searching that. We will take the treasure and drop it at the bottom of the Lake."

They loaded all the treasure chests into small boats and rowed out into the Lake of Meiringen. They rowed to the part where the Lake was deepest and there they stopped. "The French will never think of searching the bottom of the Lake," they said to themselves. "And even if they did, the water is so deep here, how would they get our treasure up again?"

They all roared with laughter and told themselves what fine fellows they were to have thought of such a safe place to hide their treasure.

Then, one by one, they tipped the treasure chests over the side and watched them sink into the deep water.

They were just about to take up the oars and row back to the shore again when one of the men cried, "Stop. It is all very well hiding our treasure from the French, but how shall we know where to find it again when the soldiers have gone?"

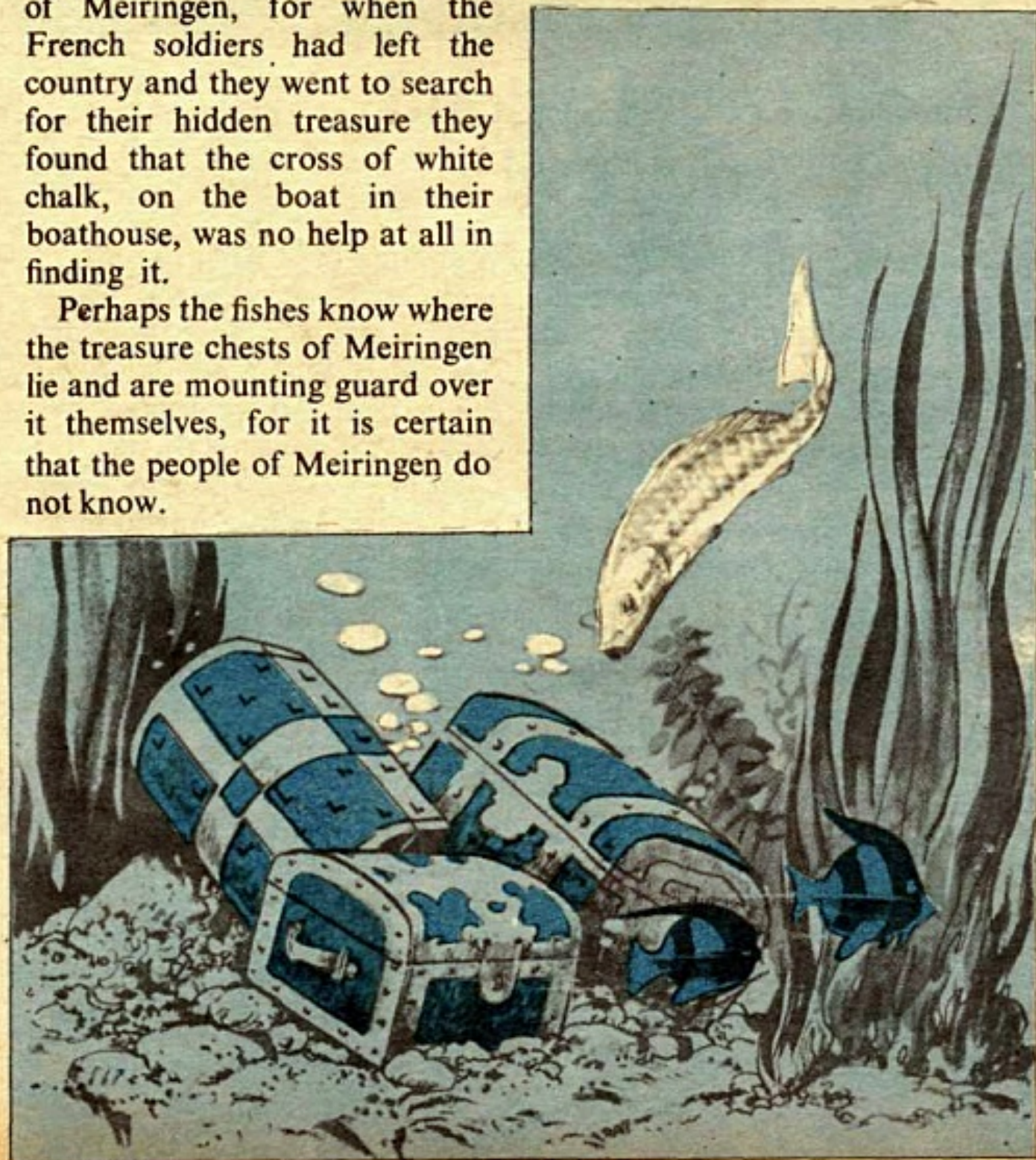
The rowers stopped and puzzled about this for a time. Then one of them said, "We must make some sort of mark, so that we can find the place again." He took from his pocket a piece of white chalk. "I will make a white cross on the side

of the boat with this," he said, so they drew a cross on the boat in white chalk as it stood there and then they rowed back to the shore again, highly pleased with themselves.

The French never did find the treasure, but neither, as far as anyone knows, did the people of Meiringen, for when the French soldiers had left the country and they went to search for their hidden treasure they found that the cross of white chalk, on the boat in their boathouse, was no help at all in finding it.

Perhaps the fishes know where the treasure chests of Meiringen lie and are mounting guard over it themselves, for it is certain that the people of Meiringen do not know.

These are some of the tales which the Swiss people tell about the foolish townsfolk of Meiringen. Perhaps, after they had lost all their treasure, they became sadder and wiser folk—maybe they even elected a new Mayor, who had more sense, who knows?





Good begets good, Evil begets evil

Long long ago, there lived in the land of Videha, a brahmin named Viswanath Sharma. He had two sons, Pasupathi and Ganapathi. The family lived prosperously in the village given to them by the King.

Now on his deathbed, Viswanath Sharma divided his lands into two equal parts and gave one to each son. Ganapathi was a bright lad, but Pasupathi was a dunce. The former became a brilliant scholar, but the latter spent his time in learning fighting skills. One day a friend of the family, also a well known brahmin accosted Pasupathi and said, "Well lad, how is it that instead of following the traditional occupation of the brahmins you are spending

your time in the martial arts?"

Highly incensed at this, Pasupathi aimed a kick at the brahmin, who raised an outcry at this assault. A complaint was sent to the king who sent his Officers to arrest the impetuous lad. But Pasupathi routed them with his well timed blows. Then the angry king sent a regiment of soldiers to arrest him and finally Pasupathi was overpowered and dragged into the presence of the ruler.

Then Ganapathi humbly beseeched the king to forgive his brother and the ruler relenting somewhat said "Very well. I shall pardon him, but he cannot live here and his property shall be confiscated."

So poor Pasupathi lost all and went to live in a dense forest. He cleared some land there and started farming it. In the middle of his land stood a banyan tree and Pasupathi worshipped it. Soon his land began to yield fruit and Pasupathi thought that the huge banyan tree was conferring its blessings on him. But alas! one day, a neighbouring King's army tramped its way through his fields and all the produce of his labour was destroyed in a moment.

Undaunted by this sudden calamity, Pasupathi worshipped the banyan tree as usual and went to sleep. He had a vision in which the tree appeared to him and said, "Oh! Pasupathi, you have pleased me with your worship and flowers and fruits. Therefore, go to the land of Malwa and address the King thus, 'He who does good reaps good, he who harms will beget harm.' These words will bring you a great benefit. Moreover, I shall teach you a spell by which you can increase the prosperity of the King."

Pasupathi learnt the spell and then journeyed to Malwa. On reaching the court of the King, he bowed low before the ruler



A neighbouring king's army destroyed all the produce of his labour

and said, "Your majesty, God has commanded me to recite a prayer for your well being. He also wants you to remember that good begets good and evil begets evil."

The King was happy to receive such blessings and rewarded Pasupathi handsomely for his sincerity and devotion. Then he appointed him as a royal attendant.

Now this King had a wife named Malayavathi who had learnt the magic arts from Kaala-bhairavi, the Goddess of Time. As such practices were taboo in that land by order of the



One day the King discovered Malayavathi worshipping the Goddess in secret

King, Malayavathi worshipped the Goddess in secret and offered meat and wine to please the deity.

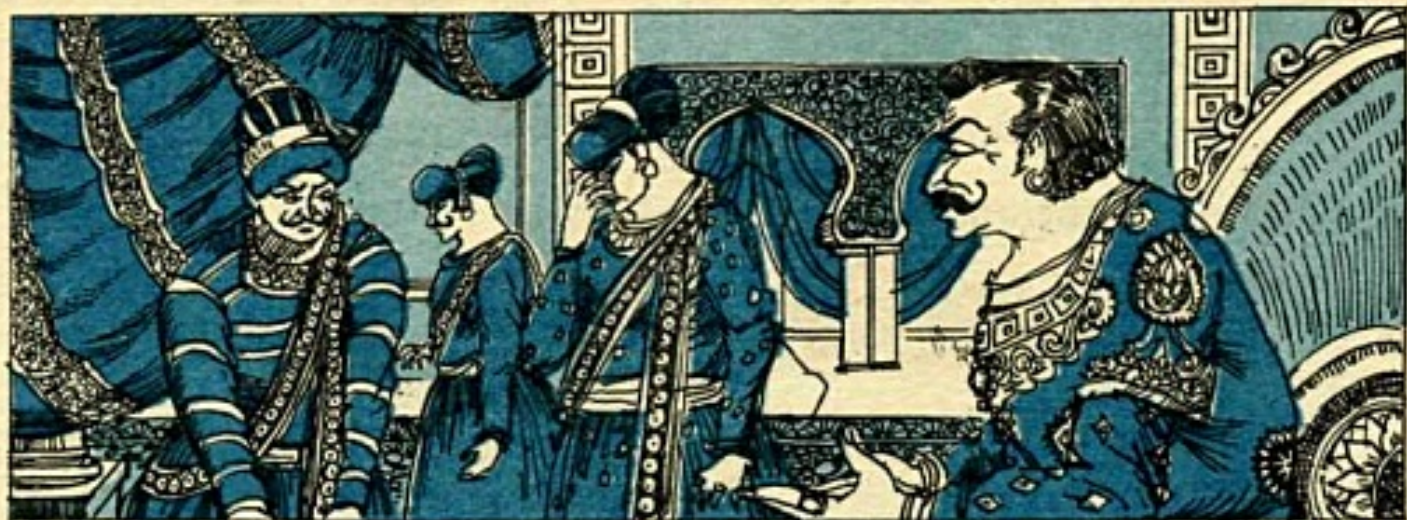
One day the King discovered her secret and became angry, "What is all this mumbo-jumbo?" he thundered. The Queen replied, "Sire, I do this for your own good. By worshipping this Goddess, I have acquired the powers which cause me to fly like a bird. You too should worship Kaalabhairavi and get her blessings."

But the King sternly refused to listen to her. The Queen threatened to end her life and

so the king had to yield to her desires. Now this queen did not like Pasupathi and was quite jealous of his ability to recite magic spells. So she determined to do away with him.

One day she told the King that human sacrifice was required to please the Goddess and added, "Pasupathi will serve as the first human offering. I will tell him to announce to the royal chef that the King and queen are ready to eat their dinner. As soon as he utters these words he will be killed by the chef and cooked as offering to the Goddess." The hapless King called Pasupathi and said, "Go and tell the chef that the King and Queen are ready for dinner." Pasupathi ran to do the royal bidding and on the way met the Prince who said, "Oh! Pasupathi, get me a pair of gold earrings, the like of which I have seen only in my father's ears."

Pasupathi replied, "Very well young Sir, but go and tell the royal chef that the King and Queen are ready for dinner." The young Prince ran to the royal kitchen and repeated Pasupathi's message. The chef



seized him, cut him up and served him as the royal dinner.

Next morning Pasupathi went to the royal palace with the earrings and the King was shocked to see him alive and well. Then Pasupathi exclaimed, "Sire, where is the Prince? He wanted these earrings!"

When the King heard these words he looked blank. Then Pasupathi explained how he had sent the Prince on with the King's message to the royal chef. The King realised with a sinking feeling that he had sacrificed his own son to the Goddess. Then he began to weep bitterly. When the courtiers looked worriedly at the weeping King, he explained between sobs how he and the Queen had planned to send Pasupathi to his death but how the whole thing had misfired resulting in the death of his own son.

Then the King mourning his

great loss made Pasupathi the King of Malwa and ended his own life by jumping into a great fire. As for the wicked Queen, her heart smote her for the evil deed she had done and she too jumped into the fire and was burnt to ashes. Thus he who caused harm came to grief and he who was good became the wise ruler of Malwa.

ANSWERS

1. TRYGVE LIE
2. TOKYO
3. PRAGUE
4. INDIA AND BANGLADESH
RABINDRANATH TAGORE
5. JUPITER
6. CHINESE
7. ST. PETER S. VATICAN CITY AND
ROME
8. BAROMETRE
9. T. N. T.
10. MARSUPIALS, KANGAROO
11. ANGEL FALLS, VENEZUELA
12. NEW AMSTERDAM
13. RUSSIA

PHOTO CAPTION CONTEST

Here is an opportunity to win a cash prize!

Winning captions will be announced in the October issue



- These two photographs are somewhat related. Can you think of suitable captions? Could be single words, or several words, but the two captions must be related to each other.
- Rs. 20 will be awarded as prize for the best caption. Remember, your entry must reach us by 31st August.
- Write your entry on a post card, give your full name, address, age and post to :

PHOTO CAPTION CONTEST
CHANDAMAMA MAGAZINE
MADRAS-26.

Result of Photo Caption Contest in June Issue

The prize is awarded to

Master Mervyn Gaudoin
17/1 Elliott Lane
CALCUTTA - 16

Winning Entry — 'Teasing Stare' — 'Pleasing Pair'



MAHABHARATA

The story so far.....

On arrival at Hastinapura, Lord Krishna was received by a host of dignitaries. After a warm welcome at the Court, he drove to Vidura's palace to meet Kunti. He consoled the distressed mother of Pandavas and assured her of a happy union with the family soon. When Vidura expressed anxiety about the inevitable war, Krishna smilingly said that he would strive his best to avert it.

Next day, accompanied by Duryodhana and Sakuni, he drove to the Court. He advised Dhritarashtra to part good counsel to his sons and warned him of the

consequences of a disastrous war, which if allowed might destroy this world. When none dared to express an opinion, Parasurama narrated them about the strength of Nara and Narayana, now born as Arjuna and Krishna.

Sage Kanwa followed Parusurama with more advice for Duryodhana.

"Oh! Duryodhana, make peace with the Pandavas and live in amity. Two strong men must always stand together. Remember Maadali's example."

Then the venerable Sage related the story of Maadali.

"Maadali was the charioteer of Lord Indra. He had a lovely daughter named Gunakesi. When she became a comely maiden, the parents busied themselves in finding her a good suitor. Not finding one in the land of the Gods, nor even on Earth, Maadali atlast went to the land of the Serpents.

On the way he met Sage Narada who took him to Varuna. The latter heard about Maadali's mission and sent him to the land of the Serpents. There Maadali and Narada searched far and wide and atlast selected a young man

Narada took Madali to Aryaka, the grandfather of the young man

called Sumuka. Narada took Maadali to see Aryaka, the grandfather of the young man. The latter was overjoyed to hear about Maadali's mission, but did not betray his delight. He said, "Oh! Lord Narada, How can I agree to this proposal? You know that Garuda has killed my son. He has threatened that next month he will swallow my grandson, Sumuka. As for me, I am lost in grief! How can I think of anything so joyous as a wedding in my present state?"

Maadali pondered over these words. Then he said, "Sir, do send your grandson with us. I shall take him to Lord Indra and make him immortal. Then Garuda will not be able to touch him. You can live in peace and happiness."

Aryaka consented to this proposal and so Maadali took Sumuka to Lord Indra. Lord Indra was deep in conversation with Vishnu. When Maadali explained Sumuka's fear, Vishnu said, "Indra, do give the nectar to Sumuka and make him a God." Indra hesitated and said, "Oh! Lord, then you must give it to him." Vishnu laughed and said, "Indra, what do you fear? You are the Lord



of all the worlds." Therefore, fear not and I shall take care of Garuda."

But Indra did not give the nectar to Sumuka; instead he granted the latter the boon of long life. Thereafter, Maadali celebrated the wedding of his daughter and Sumuka. When Garuda heard about this, he went in a rage to Indra and said, "Indra, so you are keeping me away from my prey? Don't you know how strong I am? I shall destroy you in a trice."

Vishnu intervened and said, "Garuda, don't boast so. You pride yourself in being my carrier. But in truth, it is I who bear you. Well, let me see you bear the weight of my left arm." Then he placed his left arm ever so gently on Garuda's back, and the latter found to his utter dismay that however hard he might try, he could not lift the arm even an inch of the back. Then he fell at Vishnu's feet and asked for forgiveness.

Sage Kanwa ended the tale and said, "Duryodhana, you will also meet the fate of Garuda. Lord Krishna has come here to protect you and your kinsfolk. Therefore, follow his advice."

Duryodhana looked around,



When Lord Krishna placed his arm on Garuda, he could not lift it an inch even

chuckled throatily and said, "Sir, why tell me all this? Whatever will be, will be!"

Then Sage Narada said, "Oh! Duryodhana, a very few in the world give good advices and what they say may not be palatable. Give up your pride and do what is just. Even Dhritarashtra advised Duryodhana to listen to reason."

Lord Krishna said, "Duryodhana, what you seek to do is unjust. Do not listen to those who will fill your ears with evil advice. Make the Pandavas your friends and live in amity."

Lord Bhishma and Drona

urged Duryodhana to make peace with the Pandavas.

But all this advice fell on deaf ears. Duryodhana had shut his mind to all good sense and feelings of fairness. He complained, "Oh! Lord Krishna everyone blames me. Even you, who should be impartial, blame me for something I've never done. The Pandavas gambled their kingdom away and as a result went to the forest. Why should I give back the territory they so deliberately lost? They have no right to any part of my land. I refuse to give them even an inch of

ground that belongs to me."

Sighing in weariness, Lord Krishna exclaimed, "Well, what do you want? War? I tell you, once more, you have harmed the Pandavas a great deal. Therefore live in peace with them, and give back their territories."

Flushing in anger at these words, Duryodhana strode from the court followed by his cronies. Then Lord Krishna turned to Dhritarashtra and said, "Now your race will be destroyed."

In the meanwhile, a despicable plot was hatched by Duryodhana and his cronies. They decided to arrest Lord Krishna in the court and do away with him.

So Duryodhana came to the court with his soldiers and marched up to Lord Krishna's seat. Everyone in the court became alarmed at Duryodhana's intention. Even Dhritarashtra protested against such an outrage. But Lord Krishna smiled and said, "Think you I am alone? Why look at all the people who are with me?"

Then Lord Krishna began to grow and grow, and his stature increased to such an extent that he spanned the Earth and the

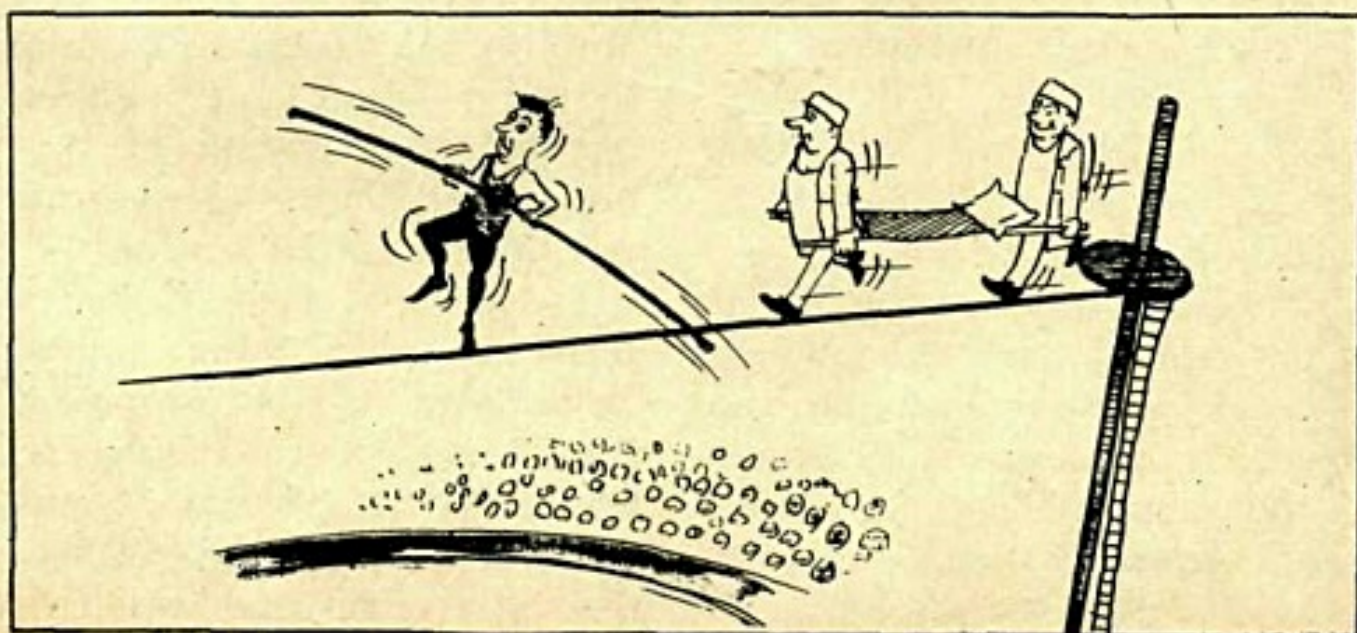




Sky. He towered above then all, resplendent in his Divine Glory. All the creatures of all the Worlds were mirrored in his person; Brahma, Ekadasarudras, the Guardians, Fire, Sun, Gods, Gandharvas. Titans, Balarama, the Pandavas, the Kauravas and every object on Earth and the Heaven was starkly revealed in his divine embodiment.

The combined radiance of

myriad suns flashed from his towering personality, and the courtiers closed their eyes, unable to bear the searing heat. Of those assembled, only Lord Bhishma, Vidura, Sanjaya and Drona were able to view that gorgeous spectacle without any fear. Even blind Dhritarashtra was enabled to see this radiant vision in his inner mind through the benevolence of Lord Krishna.





WHAT DOES A WOMAN DESIRE?

One day the King of Kalinga was chatting pleasantly with his wife in the royal garden. The Queen said, "Oh! King, Can you tell me what a woman desires most?"

The King replied, "Oh! That's easy. Jewels, of course!"

"Wrong," said the Queen.

The King named in turn lovely dresses, flowers, palaces, money and a host of other things. To all this the Queen shook her head emphatically.

Then the King said, "Very Well. I shall not rest until I've learnt the answer to your question."

Then he sent out the Royal Crier to announce that anyone who can give the answer to the Queen's question will receive a thousand gold pieces. Those who gave incorrect answers would be punished severely.

Every citizen wanted to answer the question and earn the reward but the thought of the punishment which they would face if they answered incorrectly deterred them. So no one came forward to answer the question.

The King became thoughtful at the unwillingness of the citizens to answer his query. So a second proclamation was sent out. According to this, the King would release a Pigeon in the air. Wherever the Pigeon alighted, the inmate of that house would have to answer the question or forfeit his life.

The citizens grew alarmed at this new order. Many prayed fervently to the Gods to prevent the Pigeon from alighting on their rooftops. There was general uneasiness and fear all over the city. Everyone wondered

who that unfortunate wretch would be on whose roof the pigeon would finally alight.

The Pigeon was released and it rose in the air fluttering its wings. Finally it came to rest on a fisherman's humble dwelling. The watchful guards at once burst into the house and not finding the fisherman caught hold of his young son and brought him before the King.

The King told the lad what he had to do and repeated the Queen's query. The lad asked for fifteen days grace to find the answer and the King set him free.

A fortnight passed and still the lad had not found the answer to the Queen's query.

As the fifteenth day dawned, the lad was no wiser and prepared to meet his doom bravely.

Just then an old dame came to his cottage and enquired the reason for his great sorrow. When she was informed of the Queen's query, she said, "Pooh! Is that all? The answer is very simple. Every woman desires that her husband will always do what she tells him."

The fisher lad jumped up in joy and ran to the King.

The King said, "Well, have you got the answer?"

The lad replied, "Your Majesty, every woman wants her husband to do exactly as she tells him."

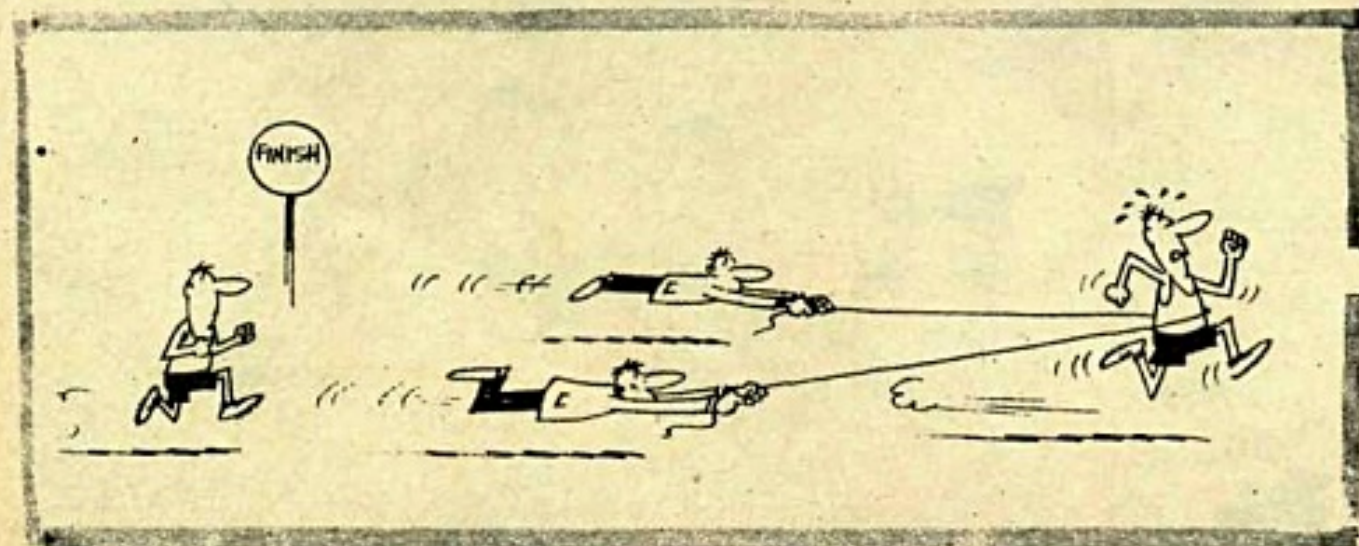
The King turned round to his Queen and asked, "Is this the right answer?" The down cast Queen replied, "Yes!" So the King satisfied at last, rewarded the fisherman's son and sent him home laden with presents.



WHAT'S YOUR SCORE?

1. Who was the first Secretary-General of the United Nations?
2. Which city has got the largest population?
3. Which is the capital of Czechoslovakia?
4. For the first time in the world two countries have adopted the songs of a poet as their National Anthem? what are the countries and who is the poet?
5. Which is the largest of the nine major planets?
6. Which is the largest spoken language?
7. A world famous church stands in a city within a city. What are the names of the Church and the two cities?
8. What instrument measures atmospheric pressure and is sometimes called a 'weather glass'?
9. Trinitrotoluene is a very powerful explosive, usually referred by its initials. what are they?
- 10.. What special name is given to animals which carry their young ones in pouches? Can you name one such animal?
11. Which is the highest waterfall in the world?
12. What was New York's name before it was changed in the 17th Century?
13. From which country did the U. S. A. purchase Alaska?

Now turn to page 49 and check your score!





THE TWO SISTERS

Once there was a widow who had twin daughters. The girls looked alike, but they had very different natures. Anna was very sweet and kind, obedient and hard-working, but Maria was just the opposite. She was lazy and disobedient and cared for no one but herself.

When there was work to be

done in the house, Anna would help her mother willingly, singing a happy song as she went about her task, but Maria would scowl and grumble when she was asked to help with the house work and did her work with a frown.

One day, the mother said to Anna, "Go to the well and get

some water." Anna picked up the big water jug and went at once.

When she reached the well, she saw an old woman sitting there. The old woman looked up as she approached and said, "You have a nice big jug there and I am very thirsty. Will you give me a drink of water?"



"Of course," said Anna. She dipped the jug in the water and then held it out, for the old woman to drink. When the old woman had finished, Anna refilled the jug and turned to go. "Wait a moment," said the old woman. "You are a very kind girl and you deserve some reward. In future, roses and jewels will drop from your mouth with every word you speak." Then she disappeared.

Anna hurried back to the cottage and said to her mother, "I'm sorry I was such a long time, but there was an old lady at the well who wanted a drink. She stopped in amazement, for roses and jewels dropped from her lips as she spoke.

The mother was amazed. She called her other daughter and said to her, "Quickly, take this jug and go down to the well and draw some water."

Maria complained at having to carry the heavy water jug all the way back from the well, but her mother sent her off and she went down the path, grumbling loudly. When she reached the well, she saw the old woman sitting there.

"I am very thirsty," said the old woman. "Would you give me a drink of water from the

well in that big jug of yours?"

Maria stared at her haughtily. "I have not come there to be your slave," she said crossly. "Get your own water, as we have to do. If I wait around drawing water for you I shall be scolded for being slow when I get back. If you want a drink, you must get it yourself." So saying, the unkind girl filled her jug from the well and turned to go back up the path.

"I gave your sister a gift and I shall give you one as well," said the old woman. "I shall give you a gift worthy of your character. A viper or scorpion will drop from your mouth with every word you say."

The girl did not even reply. She knew that a viper was a small poisonous snake and it seemed such nonsense to say that one could drop from her mouth. She walked on up the path to the cottage.

"Here is your water," she said to her mother, setting the jug down on the table. Then she stopped in horror, for as

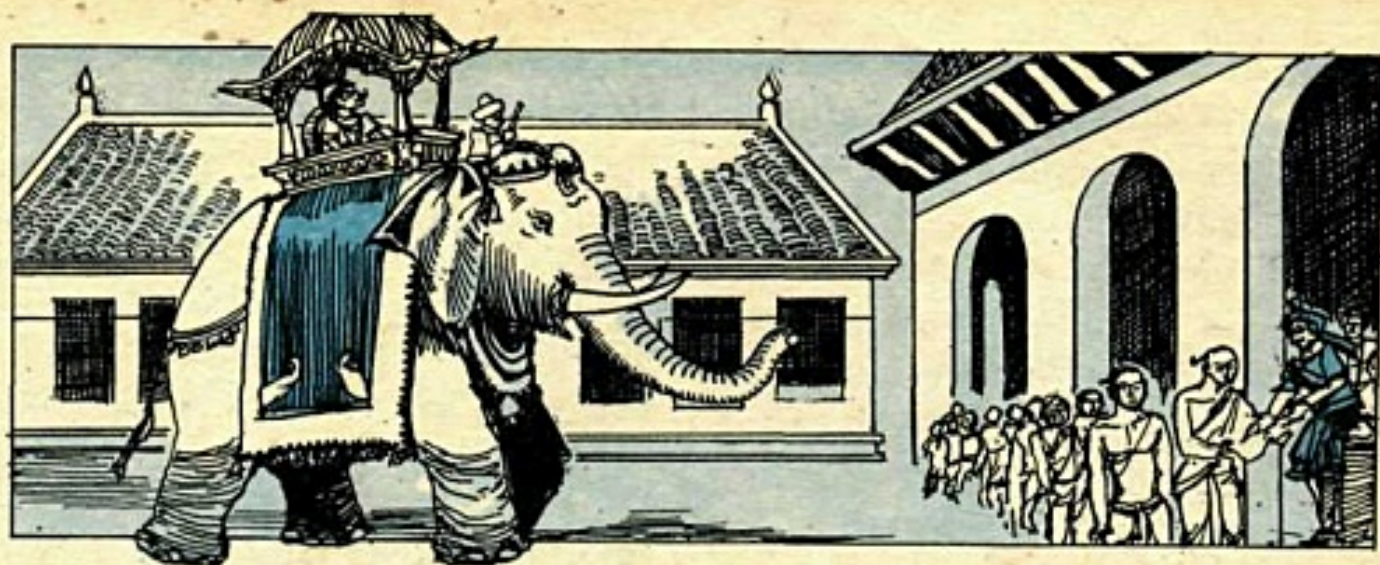
she spoke, a viper dropped from her mouth. Maria was so terrified that she would not speak another word.

Her horrified mother ran down the path to the well, to beg the old woman to change her gift.

"That is more than I can do," said the old woman. "However, tell your daughter that if she wishes to be rid of my gift, she must learn to be obedient and good and speak only kind and gentle words. Then vipers and scorpions will no longer fall from her lips when she speaks."

At first, Maria found it very hard to say only kind things, but each time she uttered harsh words vipers would drop from her lips, so she soon learned to think before she spoke. After a while, it was much easier to be kind and gentle and soon she was just as friendly and helpful as her sister and their mother declared that no better girls could be found in the whole world.





THE CHARITABLE PRINCE

Long long ago, the Kingdom of Samarpur was ruled by a King called Santhasimha. He had an elephant called Gajendra which was an awesome fighter. As long as he had it, no one could win over the King in battle.

Santhasimha had a son called Sargunasimha. He was a gentle Prince well versed in all the arts. Above all he was a philanthropist who gave freely to all.

Some years later on entering manhood, the Prince was married off to Princess Malini of Madhavpur. Sargunasimha as the heir apparent was now training to be a good King and every day he went round the city mounted on the back of his favourite war elephant, Gajendra.

Now his enemies were jealous of his growing reputation and planned to weaken him by taking away his elephant. Accordingly they sent to him some poor people who asked for the elephant as a gift from the Prince. As he could never say 'no' to anyone, Sargunasimha gave away the elephant, knowing fully well that his enemies were exploiting his charitable nature.

While these poor people were leading the elephant down the street, the citizens rose up in anger and protested to the King. "Your Majesty, the Prince has given away the elephant. It seems that he is not interested in the welfare of the land. Ask him to bring back the Elephant. Otherwise, there will be widespread unrest in the land and

we will not allow him to be crowned as the King," cried out the irate citizens.

The worried King sent for his son and asked him to bring back the elephant. But the Prince flatly refused to take back what he had given away in charity and added that he would rather quit the land than be denounced as false to his word.

Then he put on ordinary clothes and with his family went into a forest. As his children felt tired unable to walk he brought a chariot and drove on, but again a few more mendicants appeared before him and asked for the horses pulling the vehicle. The Prince readily parted with these, and he and his wife began to draw the chariot through the forest. When they rested for breath another hermit appeared before them and asked for the chariot. This too the Prince gave away.

Then the Prince began to live in the forest and faced innumerable difficulties. One day his wife went into the forest to pluck some fruits from the trees. Just then another hermit came that way and finding Sargunasimha alone with his children spoke to him. "Oh!



Prince, I want your two children. Kindly send them with me."

The poor Prince found himself in a dilemma. God was testing him in a variety of ways. But he would never give up his principle. So he sent his two sons with the hermit. The children refused to go with the hermit and were cruelly beaten by him. Sobbing loudly, they followed the hermit out of the forest. When Malini returned, she called out to her children, and not finding them turned to her husband who told her how he had given them away to a hermit.

Poor Malini was quite heart-broken, but suppressing her

sorrow, rejoiced at the charitable nature of her husband.

At about this time, Lord Indra's throne in Heaven began to quake. The reason was that Sargunasimha's charitable nature and his wife's virtue and patience were reaching out to the Heavens too! Lord Indra wanting to test them further, came down to Earth in the guise of an old brahmin and stood before Sargunasimha.

"Oh! Prince, I want your wife as alms! Will you give her to me?" he asked.

"Readily Sir," replied Sargunasimha, who was even then pouring water in a ceremonial manner to give away his wife.

"Stop," said Indra. "What will you do if your wife leaves you?"

"Why should I worry about that! It is enough if I can be of service to you. I have made it a principle never to deny anyone what they ask of me. I am even prepared to give myself away."

Lord Indra at once revealed his true identity and said, "Oh!

Sargunasimha, you will soon come to the Heavens and rule over the Gandharvas."

In the meanwhile, the citizens caught hold of the hermit who was trying to sell off the Prince's sons in the market place. They brought the hermit and the children to the Palace.

When Santhasimha, the king heard what his son had done, his heart overflowed with joy at the goodness and kindness of the prince. Resolving not to let him suffer, he went to the forest to see his son and there a tearful reunion between the king and the prince followed.

Just then a well caparisoned elephant led by the Goddess Sridevi descended from the Heavens. She said to Sargunasimha, "Oh! Prince, mount this elephant which will carry you and your family to the abode of Indra."

Sargunasimha and his family went to the heavenly abode of Indra on the back of Iravatha, the celestial elephant, as a fitting reward for a life of virtue and charitable deeds.

*We are rich only through what we give: and
Poor only through what we refuse and keep*

Anno Sohhio Swolohine

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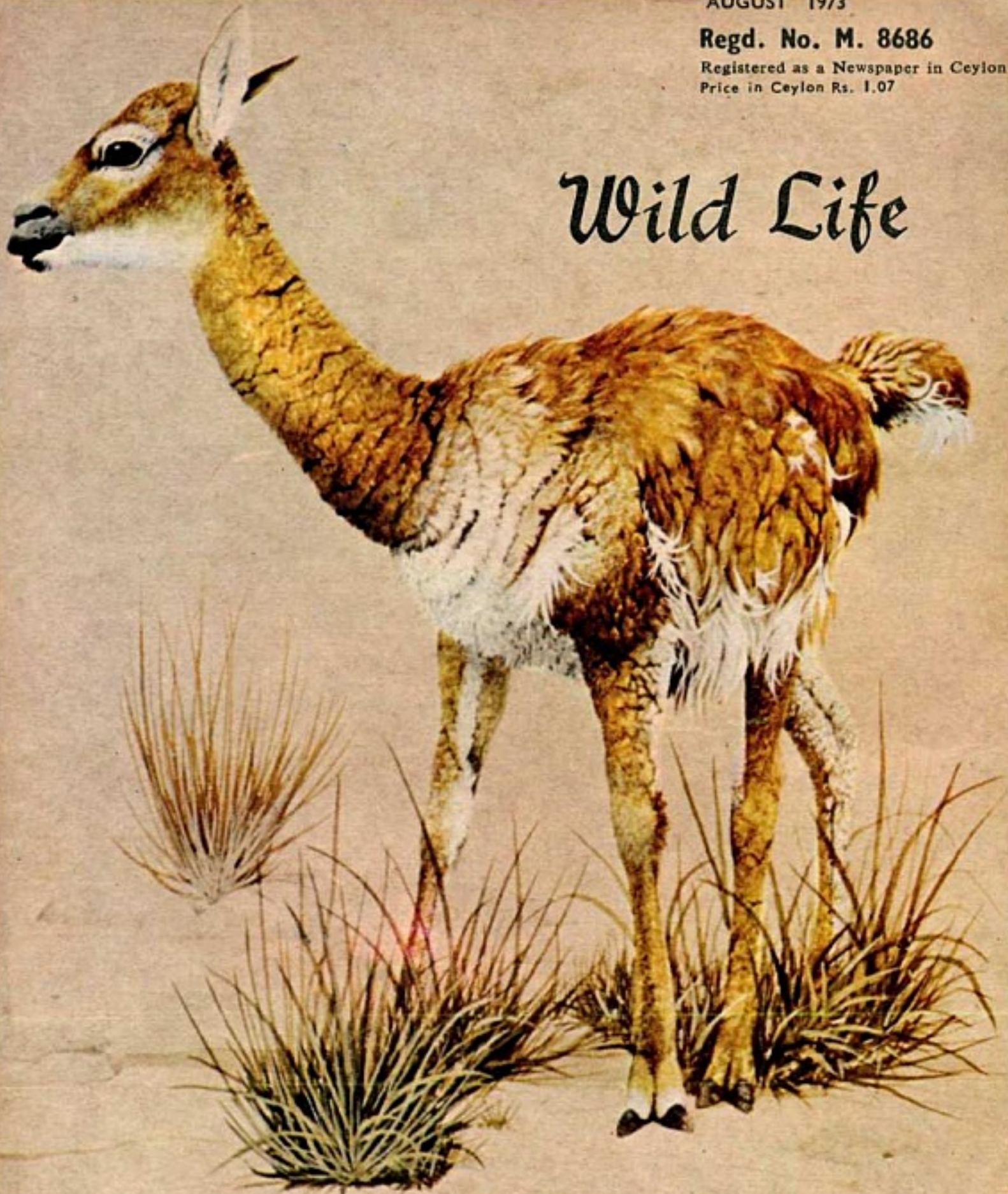
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